Airport in West Bengal

143. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new airports proposed to be set up in West Bengal;

(b) the details of airports proposed to be upgraded in West Bengal;

(c) the time-frame proposed for completion of new airports and upgradation of the existing airports; and

(d) the total amount allotted and released for new airports and for upgradation of other airports in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government of India have accorded its 'In-Principle' approval for setting up of a domestic greenfield airport at Andal. Faridpur Blocks of Barddhaman District in West Bengal.

(b) to (d) Development of the following airports in West Bengal has been planned/undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI):

Kolkata - AAI has already commenced work of modernisation and expansion of NSCBI Airport at Kolkata with a cost of Rs.1942.51 crores to be completed by May 2011.

Behala - Additional land of 90 acres has been requested from the State Government for development. Construction of flexible pavement/taxiway and overrun with an estimated cost of Rs.4.57 crores is likely to be completed by April, 2009.

Malda - Additional land of 55 acres has been requested from the State Government for development/ operationalization of the airport for ATR type of aircraft.

Cooch Behar - This airport has been developed and declared operational *w.e.f.* from 15th August, 2007 for ATR type of aircraft operations. Construction of new terminal buildings and fire station with an estimated cost of Rs.17.16 crores is likely to be completed by May, 2009.

Bagdogra - Extension of apron and widening of taxi track with an estimated cost of Rs.18.53 crores is likely to be completed by May 2009. Construction of administrative building with an estimated cost of Rs.2.21 crores is likely to be completed by August, 2009.

User charges at airports

144. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given freedom to developers to levy user charges at Bangalore and Hyderabad airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had stipulated this clause in the initial contract with the developers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for not informing the general public about the levy of user charges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) As per Clause 10.2 and Schedule 6 of Concession Agreement entered into the JVCs (*i.e.* Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) for Bangalore International Airport at Devanahalli and Hyderabad International Airport Limited (HIAL) for Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad by Government of India, the JVCs are allowed to charge User Development Fee (UDF) to meet the revenue gap if any with prior approval of the GoI.

For the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad near Hyderabad belonging to HIAL, GOI have approved, on an adhoc basis, levy of a UDF @ Rs.1000/- (inclusive all taxes) on international embarking passengers and @ Rs.375 (inclusive all taxes) on domestic embarking passengers. For Bangalore International Airport at Devenahalli near Bangalore belonging to BIAL, GoI have approved, on an adhoc basis, levy of UDF @ Rs.1070/- (inclusive all taxes) on international embarking passenger and @ Rs.260/- (inclusive all taxes) on domestic embarking passengers.

Regular flights for Pantnagar

†145. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to provide regular flights of Air India to Pantnagar airport in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Presently there is no plan with Air India to airlink Pantnagar because of the lack of suitable ATR aircraft.

Deployment of marshals during flight

146. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this Ministry is in talks with some of the Western countries in connection with deployment of marshals/commandos on flights connecting India with some key international destinations in view of recent Mumbai terrorist attacks;

(b) if so, the details of the consultations held so far and the results of such consultations; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian flights connecting to Kathmandu, Dubai and Bangkok have marshals/commandos on board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Civil Aviation has agreed to the proposal for deployment of Air Marshals on the route between India and USA and India and Germany. A mechanism for deploying Air Marshals is being worked out by this Ministry in consultation with Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Home Affairs.

(c) Since the information is secret in nature, the same cannot be divulged on the floor of the House.